

BEAD-CHAIN NYMPHS

BY JAY "FISHY" FULLUM

They **SINK**,
SPARKLE, resist
snagging, and
CATCH trout.



TYING A BEAD-CHAIN NYMPH

Hook: Standard nymph
hook, sizes 8 to 12.

Thread: Light brown 6/0
or 8/0.

Eyes: Standard brass
bead-chain eyes.

Tail: Brown hackle fibers.

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel.

Abdomen: Fine-textured
dark-brown dubbing.

Wing pad: Narrow
pearlescent Mylar tubing.

Thorax: Coarse dark-
brown dubbing.

We had a good spring crappie-fishing season last year; so good, in fact, that I spent much of my spare time tying crappie flies to meet the demands of friends. I accumulated a large pile of wasted material while tying all those flies: bits of fur, feathers, and tinsel that had been clipped and tossed aside. I was about to sweep it all up when I decided to take a few minutes and experiment with the leftovers; perhaps I could put some of it to good use.

A nymph seemed a good place to start. I put a hook in the vise and tied a pair of bead-chain eyes on top of the shank. I added a tail of brown hackle fibers, tied in a piece of oval gold tinsel at the base of the tail, dubbed the abdomen, and then wrapped the tinsel forward to form a rib. Just as I started to tie in a section of turkey feather for the wing pad, I realized that I was making the fly upside down; the heavy bead-chain eyes would make it flip over like a Clouser Minnow.

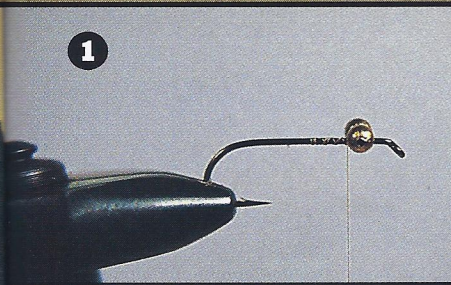
I turned the fly over in the vise and attempted to tie in the turkey feather, but the hook point got in the way. I searched through the pile of junk and found a piece of narrow Mylar tubing, which I bent in half and tied in. Some coarse brown dubbing became the thorax. I pulled the tubing forward and completed the head of the fly. The Mylar tubing made a good-looking wing pad and added a little flash to the nymph.

Other than their beady eyes and strange wing pads, the majority of Bead-Chain Nymphs look like traditional nymph patterns. Bead-Chain Nymphs do a better job of getting down into deep pools, and they rarely snag because their hooks ride with the points up. Since that first prototype made from spare fly-tying materials, I've made only one addition to these nymphs: I coat the tops of the wing pads with a little epoxy. A drop of epoxy produces an opal-like appearance in the Mylar wing pad which the trout seem to like.

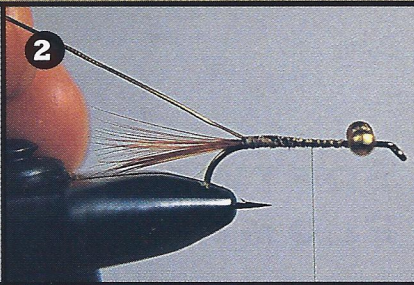


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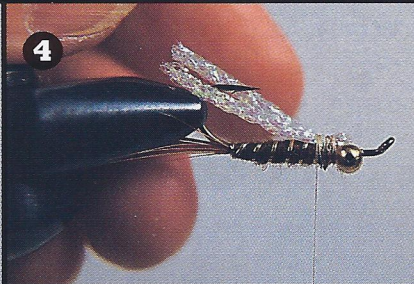
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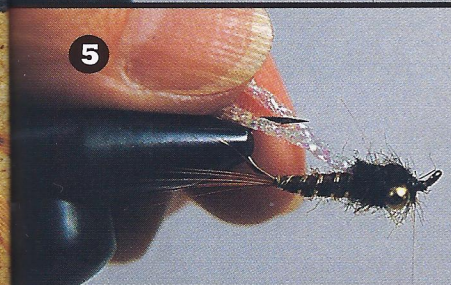
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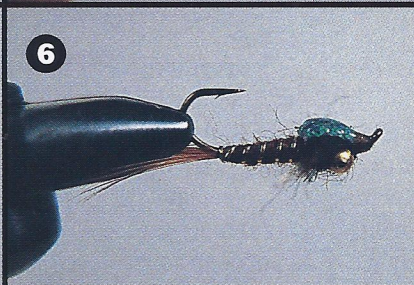
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- 1** Start the thread on the hook. Tie on a pair of bead-chain eyes, then wind back to the bend.
- 2** Tie in a dozen brown hackle fibers. Attach a piece of narrow oval tinsel at the base of the tail.
- 3** Dub the abdomen. Wind the tinsel over the abdomen to form the rib. Tie off the rib and clip the excess.
- 4** Flip the fly over. Remove the cotton core from a short piece of narrow pearlescent tubing. Bend the tubing in half and tie it in behind the eyes.
- 5** Dub the thorax. Be sure to wrap some of the dubbing between the bead-chain eyes.
- 6** Pull the tubing over the thorax to form the wing pad. Tie down the tubing and clip the excess. Complete the head and tie off.
- 7** Make the legs by picking out some of the dubbing in the thorax.
- 8** Place a drop of epoxy on the wing pad.